



CCM 2013 Testimony

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TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

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The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 92% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

CCM opposes Senate Bill 381 *An Act Concerning the Jeopardy Tax Collection on Motor Vehicles.*

A Jeopardy collection allows a municipal tax collector to enforce the collection of taxes not yet due because of the belief that the collection of such tax may be "jeopardized by delay".

SB 381 would eliminate the use of Jeopardy tax collections before the registration of a motor vehicle by a person who has been delinquent on payment of their motor vehicle property taxes. A Tax Collector may use a Jeopardy collection on a taxpayer with a history of delinquent tax payments that would make it appear unlikely that the municipality will receive timely payment of the upcoming tax bill. This may initiate the use of a Jeopardy collection before the tax collector issues a clearance to the DMV and allowing the registration of the vehicle. Often with motor vehicles people will pay the outstanding taxes only when they need to register their vehicle and the use of jeopardy collections serve to ensure the payment of future taxes.

This bill would eliminate an essential tool available to towns and cities for the enforcement and collection of property taxes. Towns and cities work hard to collect taxes and the more effective they are in collecting taxes reduces the pressure to raise mill rates to compensate for shortfalls. The removal of any available methods to collect taxes will simply make it more difficult for municipalities to secure the needed revenue to provide services for all their citizens.

CCM urges the members of the Transportation Committee to **oppose SB 381**.

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If you have any questions, please contact M. Randall Collins Jr., Senior Legislative Associate for CCM
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